22 October 1980

Mr Niall MacDermot,
Secretary General,
International Commission of Jurists,
P.O.Box 120,
109 Route de Chene,
1224 Chene-Bougeries,
Geneva

Dear Mr MacDermot,

The Military Junta in Turkey has re-arrested the leader of the National Salvation Party, Dr. Necmettin Erbakan, and members of the Party's Executive Committee. The charge against them allegedly is that they were advocating concepts in which they believed. To propogate one's views is the right of the individual or party in any democratic system. To deny this right to the leader of the National Salvation Party is a blatant denial of this basic human right.

Your organisation stands for ensuring freedom of conscience and has rendered great service in this noble cause. I hope that you share our anxiety over the detention of Dr. Erbakan and his colleagues. I am sure that, in keeping with your traditions, you will take up their case in an effective manner. He and his colleagues must be released so that freedom of expression is not sacrificed at the altar of repression.

I shall be grateful if you will kindly keep me informed of the steps you propose to take in this connexion.

The Islamic Council will extend its fullest cooperation to you in fighting for the cause which is of great importance to us all.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam
Secretary General